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Treasury. 8vo. Washington, 1842.—*From the Treasury Department.*

Document No. 70, Second Session, Twenty-seventh Congress. Northeastern Boundary.—*From Major J. D. Graham.*

FOR THE CABINET.

Twenty-one Copper Coins, chiefly Oriental.—*From Dr. Diver.*

A Fossil from the Island of Antigua.—*From Mr. G. M. Justice.*

Mr. Justice referred to certain interesting documents, relating to the history of Pennsylvania, which he hoped hereafter to be able to lay before the Society. He noticed particularly those relating to the expenses incurred in running Mason and Dixon's Line.

Mr. Kane informed the Society that the Legislature had recently passed an act, agreeably to the memorial of the Society, granting the power of selling the Hall.

Stated Meeting, March 4.

Present, thirty-four members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Quarterly Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Vol. I. No. 1. 8vo. Philadelphia, 1841.—*From the College.*

A New Dictionary of Medical Science. Third Edition, greatly modified and enlarged. By R. Dunglison, M.D. Philadelphia, 1842.—*From the Author.*

Tijdschrift voor Natuurlijke Geschiedenis en Physiologie. Uitgegeven door J. Van der Hoeven, M.D. en W. H. de Vriese, M.D. 8vo. Leyden, 1841.—*From the Editors.*

The Committee, consisting of Mr. Walker, Dr. Patterson, and Major Bache, to whom were referred Mr. Simeon Bor-

den's additional papers relative to the Trigonometrical Survey of Massachusetts, reported in favour of their publication in the Society's Transactions, which was ordered accordingly.

Prof. Vethake announced the death of Philip H. Nicklin, one of the Counsellors of the Society, which occurred on the 2d of March, at the age of 55; accompanying the announcement with appropriate remarks in relation to the character and services of the deceased: whereupon the Society appointed Prof. Vethake to prepare a necrological notice of Mr. Nicklin.

A communication was presented by Prof. A. D. Bache, on behalf of Lieut. J. M. Gilliss, U. S. N., exhibiting the monthly means of the magnetic declination, the barometer, and the thermometer, as observed by him at the Washington Observatory. This communication was referred to a committee.

Mr. Lea stated that specimens of the *Melania Altilis*, described by him, and supposed hitherto to be a southern shell, had recently been found by his son on the shore of the Schuylkill, near this city.

Dr. Goddard presented specimens of Daguerreotypes on a surface of gilded silver, and stated that the surface of iodide of gold was more susceptible to the Daguerreotype action of light than that of the iodide of silver, that the surface of the plate might be polished without injury before the action of the iodine, and that the lights came out better than on the silver surface.

Major Bache remarked upon a theory presented by certain geologists, that the coral reef owes its permanence to vital forces, stating his conviction that this was rather owing to a general law by which vertical dikes, based below the depth of the action of the waves, opposed no resistance to their motion, and were not, therefore, destroyed. He stated that this fact had been observed by engineers, and used in most of our public works on the lakes, and that he had drawn a similar inference from observations made by him at Mount Desert Island in 1822.

Prof. A. D. Bache exhibited the curves representing the results of the bi-hourly magnetic observations, made during the years 1840 and 1841 at the Girard College Observatory, showing the daily changes of magnetic declination, and horizontal and vertical intensity. He stated that from these curves the

approximate times of maximum and minimum could be inferred; but that, in order to render the determination of the periods of their occurrence more accurate, additional observations at every six minutes were now made (since January 1) within the limits shown by the curves, presented this evening, to be those of the occurrence of maxima and minima.

The Committee on the Hall reported that the articles bequeathed to the Society by the late Mr. Vaughan, as well as those presented by Mr. Jacob Snider, Jun., were now in its possession.

Stated Meeting, March 18.

Present, twenty-seven members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin, dated 15th Aug. 1841, acknowledging the receipt of the Transactions and Proceedings of the Society, and of the American Almanac for 1841; and notifying the transmission of their Transactions for 1839, and their Monthly Reports from July, 1840, to June, 1841:—and

From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Brussels, dated 18th Aug. 1841, acknowledging the receipt of copies of the Society's Transactions and Proceedings.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

A Catalogue of Books. Henry G. Bohn, York Street, Covent Garden. 8vo. of 1948 pages. London, 1841.—*From Mr. Henry G. Bohn.*

Zoological Contributions. On some American Species of Hydrachnidæ. By S. S. Haldeman. No. 1. 8vo. 1842.—*From the Author.*

Boston Journal of Natural History. Vol. IV. No. 1. 8vo. Boston, 1842.—*From the Boston Society of Natural History.*